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*The Kingdom* Film Analysis

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**INTRODUTION**

We begin in Saudi Arabia with a simple game of Softball, people are happy, playing, and conversing with each other, then out of nowhere, a police truck appears with police officers shooting at the civilians in the softball game, and then a bomb goes. That one afternoon would bring together four American FBI agents and a Saudi police officer together, as they try to figure out who was behind this massacre of innocent American civilians. *The Kingdom*, a jam-action packed film that takes place from FBI’s headquarters in D.C to the streets of Saudi Arabia, this film offers everything a movie fanatic could want. This is one movie; that you do not want to miss.

**Summary**

The film follows an investigation of a bombing at a US residential compound in Saudi Arabia. The FBI Agents, Ronald Fleury (Jamie Foxx), Grant Sykes (Chris Cooper), Janet Mayes (Jennifer Garner), and Adam Leavitt (Jason Bateman) go to Saudi Arabia and team up with Colonel Faris Al Ghazi (Ashraf Barhom) to find out who did it. This investigation to a search for top FBI Most Wanted Saudi Terrorist named Abu Hamza. While facing resistance from the US Embassy and the local Saudi government, these five people try to solve a heinous act of slaughtering of innocent people. I personally don’t give away the ending (you have to watch the movie for yourself,) but I’ll be honest, there are some powerful emotions in those end scenes.

**Views on Middle Eastern Society**

To me, it’s hard to explain a single scene and how it expresses modern Middle Eastern Society. But if I have to choose a scene which helps me get a better view on cotemporary Middle Eastern Society, I’d have to say the scenes the streets of Saudi Arabia. In the city streets, there are marketplaces bustling, some kids are western T-shirts with pictures of famous celebrities on them. You also see an underground arcade with many kids playing first-player shooting video games. This got me to thinking, in some strange way, their daily lives in their society, is surprising similar to how I spend life in my society. I wear T-shirts with for example Jay-Z on the front, I go to markets to see the foods and talk to friends, and I also go to arcades to play my favorite games. In many ways, when you look at the bare substance, Middle Eastern Society is kind of like Western Society. That’s what those scenes made me view.

**Favorite Scene:**

My favorite scene in the movie which impacts my views on the Middle East is the scene in the arcade where Fleury and Al Ghazi continue their investigation by talking to a retired bomber who now serves the arcade as part of his court-ruled community service. To me, this is one of scene of the shocking revelations on who the bomber at the beginning of the movie could be, the tension in this scene gradually builds, which keeps me firmly planted in my seat. This scene’s setting, the arcade, also lets me see an average day is like for a Middle Eastern kid. Like in the Western countries, these kids in Saudi Arabia love video games, and care about the high score on them. This sort background feel, gives me an insight into that, like the Western world, the Middle East in terms of popular entertainment, are in fact pretty common.

**Favorable Impression:**

I believe that the one scene which gave a favorable impression on the Middle East is one within Faris Al Ghazi’ home. His son is drawing, his wife is relaxing with the kids, and his daughter is playing Faris when he gets home. He also helps his father get up because his father is physically weak from old age. They all also pray towards Mecca (the Muslim Holy City) through different periods throughout the day. This scene tells a lot about an average Middle Eastern’s life. Many people’s lives there mainly revolve family and religion. To them, (if not here also), family and worship are the most important things to value in their lives.

**Unfavorable Impression:**

The one scene I believe that give an unfavorable impression of Middle Eastern life is the scene with the fighting in the streets with Fleury, Sykes, Mayes, and Al Ghazi against terrorists in order to save their captive buddy, Adam Leavitt. To me, I feel that this scene implies that much life in the streets of the Middle East is filled violence and terror with just about anyone shooting at them. I do not believe this is true. There may be some kind’s examples in real life that contradict my opinion, like for example Iraq, Iran, and Afghanistan; but two those countries I mention are at war with Islamic radicals, and Iran has been a country with an oppressive regime. But in Saudi Arabia, and also in other countries, people don’t go out in the streets and start shooting at people randomly. In fact, I believe that most Middle Eastern in these countries like Egypt and Saudi Arabia for example are safe for many people to walk on.

**Conclusion:**

In conclusion, I make this statement. Recently, movies like *The Kingdom*, try to show an accurate portrayal of life in the Middle East, unlike what the major Media networks show as a violent and dangerous place. Even though this does a good job with the Middle Eastern accents, the setting, the way the local Saudi look and interact with each other, I still feel that this movie hasn’t done enough to show what real life. They still show a lot violence there, than back at in the States or anywhere else in the world. Of course, it’s a major Hollywood movie, so there has to be some action to help move the plot along. But to me, to really experience what life is really like in the Middle East, you may have to go there yourself, much the actors, directors, and film crew did to shoot their movie. The Middle East may be a lot different from what you might’ve read about in the papers or hear on the News. To try and put it short (too late anyway), this movie has wonderful, likeable characters with a thrilling plot line to support it. But in terms of an accurate portrayal of life in the Middle East, I’d say that this movie has just scratched the surface.